

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: HUANG, Huang-Fu

SERIAL NO.: 10/776,046

ART UNIT: 3753

FILED: February 21, 2004

EXAMINER: Chambers, A.M.

TITLE: GARDENING HOSE REEL

AMENDMENT "A"

Director of the U.S. Patent  
and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of February 17, 2005, a response being due by May 17, 2005, please consider the following remarks:

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendments, previous Claims 1 - 4 have been canceled and new Claims 5 - 8 substituted therefor. Reconsideration of the rejections, in light of the forgoing amendments and present remarks, is respectfully requested. The present amendments have been entered for the purpose of distinguishing the present invention from the prior art and also for the purpose of placing the claim language into a more proper U.S. format.

In the Office Action, it was indicated that Claims 1 - 4 were rejected 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by the Wolfe patent. Claim 4 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

As an overview to the present reply, Applicant has extensively amended the claim language in the form of new Claim 5 - 8. New Claim 5 - 8 express the original limitations in a more proper U.S. format, including proper antecedent bases and proper structural interrelationships throughout. Any indefinite terminology found in the original claims has been corrected herein.

In particular, new independent Claim 5 recites the main frame as having “a generally horizontal base”. Independent Claim 5 also positively recites certain limitations found in original Claims 2 and 3. In particular, it is indicated that in new Claim 5 that there is a “support frame” having a horizontal frame portion that receives the base of the main frame and has a vertical frame portion that allows for hinged connection to a wall surface. Additionally, independent Claim 5 recites the relationship between the primary and secondary connectors. The term “rotary connector means” is provided in association with the previous rotary connector in order to properly recite the function of such rotary connector in proper “means-plus-function” terminology.

Relative to the prior art Wolfe patent, it can be seen that there is main frame that contains a reel. It also appears that there is a connector which allows relative rotation between the water hose and the garden hose on the reel. However, there is nothing in the Wolfe patent that describes either the “reel notch”, the “support frame”, nor the ability to hingedly connect the support frame, and the associated reel frame, to an external surface, such as a wall. As such, although the structure of the Wolfe patent will allow relative rotation between the water hose and the gardening hose, it does not allow the frame to be angularly adjusted relative to the direction in which the hose is payed out from

the reel. Additionally, the Wolfe patent fails to provide any means whereby the user can determine how much of the reel has been paid out by viewing through the “reel notch”. There is nothing in the Wolfe patent to suggest that there is a “reel notch formed in a wall of the reel and extending across a radius of the wall”. It appears that the Wolfe patent merely utilizes a handle for controlling the positioning of the main frame. The Wolfe patent also describes a mounting eyelet 12 that is used for supporting the main frame on a hook. There is no teaching or suggestion of a support frame that receives a horizontal base of the main frame. It also fails to disclose a support frame as having a vertical portion suitable for attachment to a wall. As such, the Wolfe patent lacks the structure of the present invention, as defined by independent Claim 5, along with the function of and the results achieved by the present invention.

Dependent Claims 6 - 8 correspond, respectively, to at least portions of the limitations found in original dependent Claims 2 - 4. New dependent Claim 8 reflects the limitations of original dependent Claim 4, but expresses such limitations in a more proper U.S. format. The “two sentence” recitation found in original dependent Claim 4 has been corrected in dependent Claim 8.

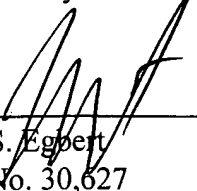
Based upon the foregoing analysis, Applicant contends that independent Claim 5 is now in proper condition for allowance. Additionally, those claims which are dependent upon Claim 5 should also be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the

claims at an early date is earnestly solicited. Since no new claims have been added above those originally paid for, no additional fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

4-20-05

  
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Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I hereby certify that the attached correspondence comprising:

AMENDMENT "A"

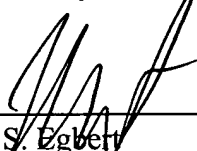
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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Respectfully submitted,

  
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